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prices. Especially does this hypothesis commend itself when we consider that the relative divergence in wages and prices is found to be almost exactly such as might be expected to result from the operation of this cause.

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AN EXERCISE IN EXPENDITURE.

THE following question was given to a class in economics: How would you spend ten thousand dollars? Tabulate the items. The object was to secure some definite idea as to the students' views of wealth consumption.

The class was composed of thirty-six persons eleven of whom were women. Their average age was about twenty-one years. The university of which this class is a part is located in a city of two hundred thousand inhabitants, and has twenty-six hundred students altogether. Of these probably one-third are from the city. Perhaps 60 per cent. are Americans, the remainder being largely of German and Scandinavian stock. Most of the students are in moderate circumstances. To all of the class ten thousand dollars was a considerable sum.

The items of expenditure were fourteen. The order in which they ran, on the basis of preference, was as follows: Education (24), real estate (17), travel (12), mortgages (10), bank stock, business, books, pleasure, each (7), charity (6), railroad bonds (5) mining stock, insurance, clothing, each (4), government bonds (3) and options (1). The item "charity" includes all gifts; "books" includes pictures and statuary. The aggregate expenditure distributed is \$360,000. The accompanying table (page 99) shows the proportion devoted to each item.

The result is interesting in several particulars. In ten cases nearly the entire amount was invested in land, railroad securities, or government bonds. On the other hand, the small amounts assigned to pleasure, books, and clothing are very noticeable. The reason for this rather unexpected self-denial is possibly to be found in the economy taught by saving parents. Their ingrained frugality did not permit such an expenditure even upon paper. The proportion assigned to books may also seem surprisingly small. Only 1.6 per cent. is set aside for this purpose by eight persons. This is partly to be explained by the presence of public libraries and reading rooms.

Education and travel are given some attention by twenty-four of the

Number	Sex	Education	Travel	Real Estate	Mortgages	Railroad Bonds	Government Bonds	Bank Stock	Business	Mining	Charity	Books	Pleasure	Insurance	Options	Clothing	Use of Income
1	w	1,500	1,000	5,000				2,500		7,000	1,000						Education Education
2	m	2,000		8,000													
3	m	2,000		10,000													Education Education
4	w				1,000												
5	m							10,000									Education
6	m	500					9,500										
7	m	500					8,500										Education
8	m	1,000	500	10,000													
9	m																Education
10	m	500															
11	m	500		2,000	5,500	9,500		1,500									Education
12	m	500				9,900											
13	m	500							10,000								Education
14	m	1,000			8,500					500							
15	m	500								2,000							Education
16	m	1,000	1,500				7,500										
17	m	1,500		3,000													Education
18	m	500															
19	w							9,500									Education
20	m	800	600	2,500	2,000			5,000									
21	w	1,000		9,000													Education
22	m																
23	w	1,000	1,000	7,200	2,800												Education
24	m								1,000								
25	m	1,000		5,000	5,000				5,000								Education
26	m	1,400	300	3,500					4,500								
27	m								7,200								Education
28	w	400			1,000												
29	w							3,000									Education
30	m	3,000		5,000	5,000												
31	m		1,500	5,000													Education
32	m	2,000	1,150	5,550				5,000									
33	w	1,000	500	4,300													Education
34	w	700	700	3,000	5,000	4,000											
35	m	1,000			4,500												Education
36	m		1,000	7,500													
360,000		25,700	14,200	106,050	58,300	30,900	25,500	36,500	22,350	13,000	11,050	5,875	1,600	1,100	500	325	

number. Eight women devoted \$15,300 to these items; their estimates for such expenditure are more liberal than those of the men.

Of the eight who contribute 3 per cent. of the total amount to charity only two are women. Thus, while they make up 30 per cent. of the class, they constitute only 25 per cent. of those who would use a part of their money for others. There is at the same time a noticeable tendency on the part of the women to give their expenditure a personal character. The items of travel and education corroborate this to some degree.

As will be seen by the table real estate seems to be the favorite investment; mortgages are the second choice; bank stock and business, railroad and government bonds follow in this order. The large expenditures for mortgages and real estate are explained in part by the fact that many of the fortunes of the Northwest have been accumulated by this means. Railroad bonds have received less attention, probably in part because many of the railroads in the Northwest have failed to meet their obligations. There is also a prejudice against railroad companies in this part of the country. Government bonds are not attractive because of the premium and the low rate of interest.

The question was put to the class at the beginning of the Klondike excitement, but little effect of the gold fever was visible. Only one of the four who propose expenditure in mining expected to use the money in a Klondike scheme. The other three were mining engineers who would naturally desire to put part of their money into their own business. Among the thirty-six one only indicates a desire to speculate in in options.

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SOME ODDITIES OF STATISTICAL METHOD.

IN the *Chicago Chronicle* of September 3, 1897, we find the following credited to the *Utica Observer*:

Mulhall, the famous statistician, puts the value of the average product per head in England at \$513.60; France, \$634.40; Germany, \$379.20; Austria, \$350.40; America, \$2,204. Any comparison of wages which leaves out the value of the product of labor is a manifest absurdity. The American manufacturer is not at the disadvantage of the English manufacturer, as to labor, unless the American pays his labor four and one-half times as much per day as the Englishman. The reason is plain. The average American